

**Amendment to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended) A locking device for an extension pipe for removably connecting the extension pipe to an operation handle, comprising:

a holder connected to the operation handle, and having a locking hole formed on one side, to correspond to a fixing hole formed on the operation handle; and

a locking/unlocking lever having a hook portion movable into and out of the locking hole, and a button portion formed opposite to the hook portion along the a diameter, and a hinge pin pivotally connected to the holder and disposed opposite to the button and hook portions along a length of the locking/unlocking lever, wherein the locking/unlocking lever is movable between a locked position and an unlocked position, wherein in the a-locked position in which the hook portion is inserted into the locking hole, and wherein in the an unlocked position in which the hook portion is escaped out of the locking hole.

2. (currently amended) The locking device of claim 1, wherein the locking/unlocking lever has an open end, wherein the hinge pin is disposed in proximity to the open end, and wherein the operation handle can be inserted into the open end~~button portion is disposed such that a force for unlocking is applied in the same direction as the holder separating direction.~~

3. (currently amended) The locking device of claim 1, wherein the button portion and the hook portion are disposed opposite to the hinge pins~~is two hinge pins disposed on opposing sides of along the length of the locking/unlocking lever.~~

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4. (currently amended) The locking device of claim 1, wherein an elastic portion is formed on opposite locations of the locking/unlocking lever so as to secure the locking/unlocking lever in the locked position by an elastic contact with ~~the~~an outer circumference of the holder.

5. (new) A vacuum cleaner comprising:

a vacuum source;

an operation handle having a fixing hole formed on one side and being connected to the vacuum source;

an extension pipe;

a holder having a locking hole formed on one side to correspond to the fixing hole, the holder being connected to the extension pipe; and

a locking/unlocking lever having a hook portion and a button portion formed opposite to the hook portion along a diameter thereof, the locking/unlocking lever for removably connecting the holder to the operation handle, wherein the locking/unlocking lever is movable between a locked position and an unlocked position, wherein in the locked position the hook portion is inserted into the locking and fixing holes, and wherein in the unlocked position the hook portion is removed from the locking and fixing holes.

6. (new) The vacuum cleaner of claim 5, wherein the locking/unlocking lever has hinge pins that pivotally connect the locking/unlocking lever with the holder, and wherein the button hook portions are disposed opposite to the hinge pins along a length of the locking/unlocking lever.

7. (new) The vacuum cleaner of claim 5, wherein an elastic portion is formed on opposite locations of the locking/unlocking lever so as to secure the locking/unlocking lever in the locked position by an elastic contact with an outer circumference of the holder.

8. (new) The vacuum cleaner of claim 6, wherein the locking/unlocking lever has an open end, wherein the hinge pins are disposed in proximity to the open end, and wherein the operation handle can be inserted into the open end.